(b) if so, the names of States where the projects are not working satisfactory; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A four tier monitoring and review mechanism has been provided in the project for reviewing the implementation of the project at national, state, district and block levels. Recently a detailed review of the project was undertaken in the meeting of National Watershed Development Policy and Implementation Committee, the apex body on 18th July, 1996 and two days National Workshop held on 18th and 19th July, 1996.

(b) and (c). These reviews have indicated that the States/UTs where the performance is found to be less than satisfactory on an overall basis are Assam, Bihar, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

Based on the periodical intensive review of the performance of these States, concerns have been communicated from time of time to the States by the Central Government to remedy the situation. As a result of these intitiatives, the performance in many of the earlier slow-performing States has begun to show distinct improvement.

Private Sector in Afforestation Programmes

*279. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allot forest land to private sector for promoting the afforestation programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No forest land is proposed to be allotted to private sector for promoting the afforestation programmes.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Encroachments on Railway Land

*280. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total land of the Railways encroached upon by the people;

(b) whether the Railways have filed cases against the encroachers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) About 2500 Hectares of Railways land is under encroachment.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 35963 cases have been filed under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

[English]

Territory of Darjeeling

2058. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the G.N.L.F. of late has been raising the issue of taking steps for the constitutional incorporation of the territory of Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the stand of the Central Government regarding this issue;

(c) whether the Government have communicated their view to the G.N.L.F.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Shri Subash Ghisingh, as President of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, had filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Government of India to formally absorb the territories of Darjeeling including Kalimpong, Assam Dooars and Bengal Dooars, in the Union of India through a Parliamentary legislation. The Supreme Court had dismissed the Petition.

(b) These are integral part of India.

(c) to (e). In a meeting held on 5.3.1992, Shri Ghisingh, President of the Gorkha National Liberation Front, was apprised of the correct position of the issue by the Home Minister.

Unreserved Coaches in Long Distance Trains

2059. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the railway journey undertaken by a large number of labourers from Purnia Division of Bihar to Delhi, Punjab and various other parts of the country;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the difficulties being faced by these labourers due to the negligent number of unreserved coaches in the long distance trains;